The Cleveland Museum of Art
A world of great art for everyone

11150 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio
44106–1797

Tel 216–421–7340
Fax 216–229–5095
www.clevelandart.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Julie Limpach
(216) 707-2261
jlimpach@clevelandart.org

Cleveland Museum of Art Highlights Newly Acquired Rare 19th-and 20th-century American Photographs

CLEVELAND (April 21, 2003) —The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) in 2002 purchased an outstanding group of photographs from the personal collection of collector and private dealer Charles Isaacs and his wife, Carol Nigro of Malvern, Pa. **Charles Isaacs and Carol Nigro Collection of American Photography**, an exhibition of these 22 stunning photographs will open April 26, remaining on view through Sept. 10, 2003. Admission to the museum and this exhibition is free.

Primarily portraits and landscapes, the photographs range in date from 1850 to 1911. This collection also includes eight daguerreotypes that represent iconic examples of the artistic achievement, diversity of subject matter and technical excellence that made American daguerreotypes one of the outstanding accomplishments in the history of photography.

Tom Hinson, the museum's curator of photography says, "This collection is the cornerstone for the museum's American photography collection. It's an accomplishment now impossible to achieve by acquiring one picture at a time due to the rarity of great 19th-century American photographs in such excellent condition."

This collection contains some of the finest works, most in the technique of albumen prints from wet collodion negatives, by landscape photographers of the American West, such as Charles L. Weed (1824–1903), Timothy H. O'Sullivan (1840–1882) and William Henry Jackson (1843–1942). It is further distinguished by beautifully toned platinum prints by Thomas Eakins and Alvin Langdon Coburn.

A highlight to the exhibition is a daguerreotype by the famous team of Albert Sands Southworth (1811–1894) and Josiah Johnson Hawes (1808–1901) of Boston. It is an example of the most difficult of the portrait styles available in the 1850s, in which the photographers used a template and a slider plate holder to create a complex composition of an unidentified woman. A large central oval surrounded by eight smaller ovals presents a total of nine poses, expressions and moods on one metal plate.

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

# # #